

McLean House  
Appomattox  
Appomattox County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-240

HABS

VA

b. APPRO

1.

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office  
for Southeast Unit

HABS  
VA.  
6-APP  
1-

MC LEAN HOUSE  
Appomattox, Appomattox County, Virginia

Owner of site: United States Government

Date of erection: c. 1850

Present condition: Demolished

Description:

Brick; two stories; low hipped roof; end chimneys;  
facade five bays, central door.

VA.  
6-APPD.  
11

**JOEL W. FLOOD**  
 Judge of The Fifth Judicial Circuit of Virginia  
 APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA  
 Mar. 16, 1940.

Mr. E. H. Hancock,  
 c/o C. W. Hancock and Sons  
 Lynchburg, Virginia.

Dear Pete:

I have just received your letter of the 15th. and am herewith enclosing an affidavit which I have made as strong as I can, due to the fact I do not have any direct knowledge of the plans you have in your possession, but only from what other people have told me.

I will be quite busy for the next week. I am writing this letter before leaving for Buckingham today. I have been designated to sit in an Annexation Case in Halifax County next week beginning Monday, so I will not have any time to get any other affidavits for you at this time, and I understand you want them as soon as possible. If you will get in touch with Jerry Burke I feel sure he will be glad to help you out in the matter. It occurs to me that Ragland Featherston might be of considerable assistance to you. His grandmother, Mrs. Ragland, who by the way was my Father's Aunt, owned the McLean property, or probably her husband did, I am not quite sure about this. At any rate Ragland as a boy spent considerable time there, and of course he was a large boy, probably sixteen or seventeen, at the time the house was torn down. It had at that time been sold to other parties. Probably Rolfe Horsley would know something about it too. Jerry is a close friend of both of these parties.

I want to thank you very much for your kind expressions in regard to my elevation to the Bench and sincerely hope that you will have all good luck in regard to the plans and getting the contract for the Restoration. If I can be of any further assistance to you let me know.

Sincerely yours,

File - 15 -  
 102 -  
 254 -

VA

6 APPD

15

October 16, 1931.

Mr. C. Hubbard,  
Hubbard Foundry & Machine Co.,  
Lynchburg, Va.

Dear Sir:

Referring to the McLean tracings left with you will say that I will appreciate it if you will forward same to me at Huntington, Va. as soon as you have completed them.

Thanking you, Yours very truly,

CAH:H.

VA  
6 APPD.

1-

September 10th, 1931

Mr. P. C. Hubbard  
Lynchburg, Va.

Dear Sir:

With further reference to the Old Surrender House at Appomattox, will say that I visited the site yesterday and find the following inscription on a tablet located where the building was taken down:

"Wilmer McLean owned and occupied, in which General U. S. Grant, U.S.A. and General Robert E. Lee, C.S.A. met and agreed on terms of surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, on April 9th, 1865. This house was taken down in 1893 with a view to its removal and erection elsewhere."

I am leaving with you a large photograph of the front elevation; also a postal photograph of the front which was taken at an earlier date, you will note the difference in the porch balcony railing.

I am also enclosing a postal photograph of the interior view of the room in which these papers were signed. You will note a small section of the mantel piece which will give you an idea so that you can make up a detail for this mantel. Your attention is called to the fact that the pilasters and front appears to be reeded and above this it is generally understood that there is a little dentil block cornice. In other words truly a colonial design, all of which I would like for you to show on your details.

Trusting that the above will give you the information desired and if there is any other information wanted, I would appreciate it if you would advise me before completing the tracings, and with kindest regards, I am

Read & Return

Yours,

C. A. H.

CAH:T

C. A. H.

**W. A. Abbott**  
General Contractor

HABS No. VA-240  
Page 45  
OTter-5 Massingale St.  
Box-12 Columbia Mich.  
Phone-24-253

VA  
6-APR-1  
1-

Charleston, West Virginia

FOLDER D

March 19, 1940.

Mr. C. A. Hancock,  
Box 1075,  
Huntington, W. Va.

Re: McLean House,  
Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Hancock:

As per our conversation of today, I wish to say that I was employed by C. W. Hancock, a contractor of Appomattox County, Virginia, during the year of 1893 to assist in taking down the McLean Residence at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

I recall that the measurements and description with plans (showed the dimensions) were made before the work was started. The building was taken down, the material was marked and numbered with marking brushes, then bundled and crated and stored on the lot and covered, preparatory to shipping same to Chicago to be rebuilt for an exhibition building and used during the World's Fair. This material never left the original lot but all of the lumber finally decayed and most of the bricks were carried off by tourists.

I have in my possession one baluster that came off of the front porch railing, also a photograph enlarged made just before the building was taken down, which I am delivering to C. A. Hancock.

I was born and raised within a few miles of this place and was living in sight of the place when the building was taken down. I recall that the Raglands owned the McLean Residence, when I first knew it, then Mr. Dunlap purchased and contracted with Mr. C. W. Hancock to take it down.

I believe the plans and specifications are sufficient to reproduce the old building in replica as it stood about forty-seven years ago, which is to best of my recollection.

Yours very truly,

*W. Abbott*

Dated on March 19, 1940

State of West Virginia ..... Kanawha County, etc,

..... W. A. Abbott, ...., being duly sworn according to law,  
says that the statements contained therein are true and correct, to the  
best of his knowledge and belief.



Signature of Affiant

Taken, subscribed and sworn to before me this 19<sup>th</sup> day  
of March, 1940.

Harry L. Mathews  
Notary Public  
(Official Title)

My Commission expires

1-16-42



# Specifications

For Moving and Rebuilding "The McLean or  
"Surround House"

From Appomattox Court House Va to  
Washington D. C.

## Removal

The house must be carefully taken down. All wood work numbered and secured so that stones will be broken, split or lost.

All Doors, Windows Mantels &c to be taken down & shipped in whole as far as possible. Care being taken not to deface the paint or moulding more than absolutely necessary.

The Bricks must be removed with great care so that the fewest number will be broken. The corner and front bricks must be kept separate <sup>and</sup> built back in their respective places. All of the bricks must be carefully cleaned.

## Cottage

The Contractor is to deliver all material on cars at Appomattox Depot and cart all material from Washington Depot to Building lot. The owners to pay all further freight charged.

## Rebuilding

The accompanying drawings are to be considered a part of this specification. The figures on drawings to have preference over scale measure-

2

And the wording of this specification  
to have preference over both  
figures <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ Saal measurements.

The House consists of a basement  
first and second stories with a  
decked front porch extending the  
length of house. Back Porch  
fourteen feet long by eight feet  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches  
wide with a comb roof.

When the word right or left  
room is used, it means right  
or left hand when facing the  
front of the house.

### Foundation

The foundations to be of brick  
of dimensions shown on drawing  
To be two feet below the surface of  
ground or more if necessary  
To get a good foundation  
Bricks to be laid in mortar  
composed of one part James River  
or Rosedale Cement, two  
parts clean sharp sand  
to the surface of ground, then  
in lime mortar of good quality  
one part lime two parts  
sharp sand. All joints between  
brick to be close.

### Walls

All outside walls are brick.  
Partitions wood. Back end  
walls thirteen inches thick

3

Laid every sixth header. Front and back basement walls seventeen inches thick, every sixth course headers. Front & back walls to first story 13" thick. Front wall flueish bond from front porch floor to cornice. Very close joints not over  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. Back wall every sixth course headers.

Second Story - all walls 13" thick, every sixth course headers.

Chimneys and flues must be rebuilt as found on old building.

Six brick pillars adjust to be built to support front of front porch as shown on ground plan and elevation. The back porch rests on wooden posts, whose balcony ends rest on flat stones as shown on and elevation, and ground plan. The house has 123 courses of brick on sides.

### Floor.

Basement floors are board resting on scatting laid on the ground. Large fire hearths with brick paving.

1<sup>st</sup> Floor is nailed to two  $3 \times 10$  joists<sup>24"</sup> and two  $10 \times 10$  oak sills running crosswise of the house. The hall floor rests on joists running lengthwise of the house & ~~attic~~ mortised into the

4.  
10x10 Oak sills

2nd Floor same as first except it hasnt the 10x10 sills.

Ceiling joists are 10x3" running across the house. Rafters 3"x4". Sheathing 1" covered with tin.

Front Porch Framing mortised together, one end of sills resting in walls of house, the other on brick pillars as shown on end elevation of house. This porch has 9 steps with 3" oval hand rail on each side with  $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$  newels 38" high at bottom of steps as shown. The porch has a railing extending all around with hand rail 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide top edge broaled. This porch has six 12x12 square wooden columns ~~standing~~ supporting deck. The flooring of this deck has a slight drainage to the front about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The porch has a hand railing around the top as follows a eight foot 3" x 8" x 30". Hand rail 3x3 foot rail 3x3 lattices 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ x2 run diagonally to form diamonds as shown on drawings. Top rail chiselled  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Chamfered front of posts panelled with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " half round moulding. Rail run over top of posts and fitted at corners.

5

The Back Porch is reached by a flight of 13 steps. plain  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " treads no risers hand rail  $2\times 4$ " top rounded foot rail  $1\times 6$  plain, newel  $3' 8"$  high Porch railing same as front porch-like roof of this porch is a curb roof covered with shingles Columns of this porch  $10\frac{1}{2}'' \times 11''$

#### Doors Windows

Basement story has windows of 16 lights each  $10\times 12$  glass as shown on drawings. windows sit  $2' 5\frac{1}{2}$ ' from floor

#### Outside blinds

Front Door to Basement  $6' 5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2' 11''$  Back Door  $6' 5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3' 3\frac{1}{2}''$ . Two Hall doors  $6' 6'' \times 2' 11''$  one  $3' 6''$  wide under steps in right hand room

Stairs leading from basement to first story hall. 17 steps  $\frac{1}{2}$ " rise  $11"$  tread  $2' 11"$  wide hand rail & balusters with newel & posts as shown on plan.

1st Story has 4 windows of 14 lights each  $10\times 12$  glass as shown on drawing, but the two windows in right hand room are more elaborately moulded than those in Sunnider room and also have a panel under them reaching to the floor.  $6\frac{1}{2}'$  square rose blocked in corners. Both side blinds.

Windows in Sunnider room have no rose blocking inside. The front door has double doors

with transom as shown on detail.  
Back door single  $6'5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3'9\frac{1}{2}''$  panelled.  
side hall doors  $6'5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3'1\frac{1}{2}''$  5 panels  
Door frames finished off inside.  
Adam style as window framed.  
Stair from first to second story has  
a landing as shown on plan -  
These stairs have hand rail & newels  
these stairs are ciled on underside &  
are panelled on side that shows in  
hall. Stop strips for 5 panelled door  
leading to basement -  
Hat strips in front hall level with  
top of door  $1\frac{1}{2}''$  wash board in  
Dinner room  $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$  Hat strip in this  
room  $1\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$  level with top of door.

### 2nd Story Doors &c

The Second story has 5 windows 16 lights  
3 windows in each room & one in end  
of hall and back porch. And a  
door in front end of hall opening on  
the deck of front porch as shown  
on drawings. This door is  $4'1''$  wide  
 $6'10''$  high. Height from floor of rooms  
to windows  $2'3''$ .

Mantels in the rooms as shown  
on detail sheet. Map & chain boards  
in back room, panelled doors  
leading from hall to each room  
located as shown. All windows  
have outside blinds. The little  
wing under main roof with down spouts

at each corner of old pattern with  
gutter heads.

All Rooms are plastered and  
white washed -

All fire places are open  
for burning wood on old  
fashioned iron dogs.

The Contractor is to furnish all  
tools machinery & materials for moving  
& rebuilding this house unless  
otherwise specified -

Upon completion all rubbish must be  
removed from building & deposited  
in some suitable place -

all broken glass replaced &  
house cleaned up -

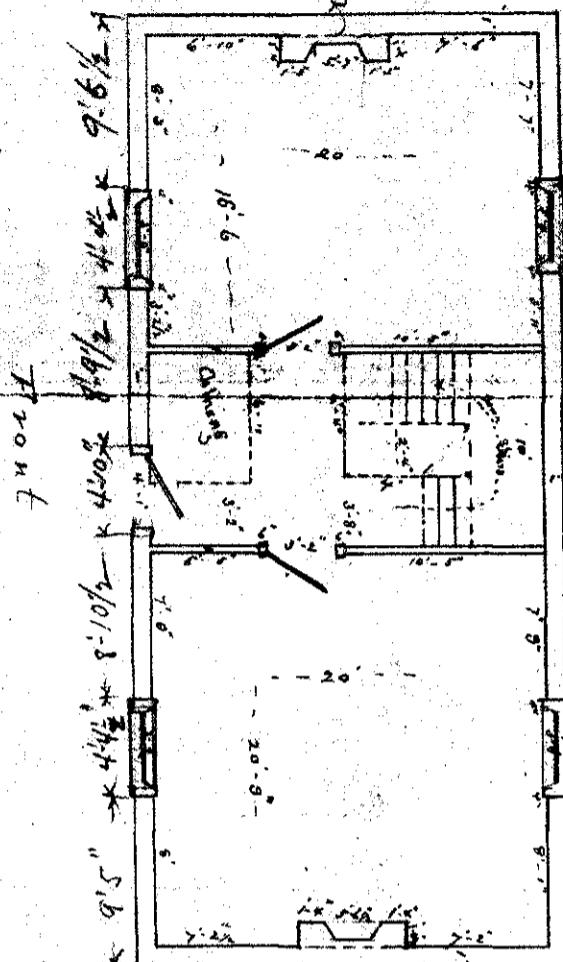


2-17-93

00.51  
11.51  
12.51

(4)

Brick bar 24"



2nd

3<sup>rd</sup> Story



Brick Pier

Height of Ceiling 8'-2"

Thickness of Wall 1'-0"

Thickness of Partitions (Wood) 0'-5"

Front Door. Width 4' 1"

.. Height 6'-10"

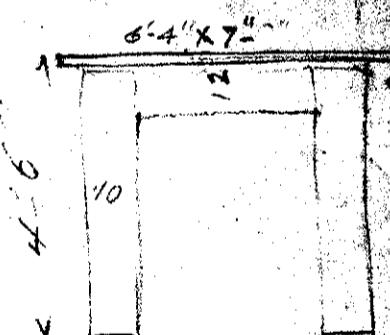
From Floor to window 2'-3"

Windows - 16 light 10x12 same as basement

Floor to top of window sill 2' 3 1/2"

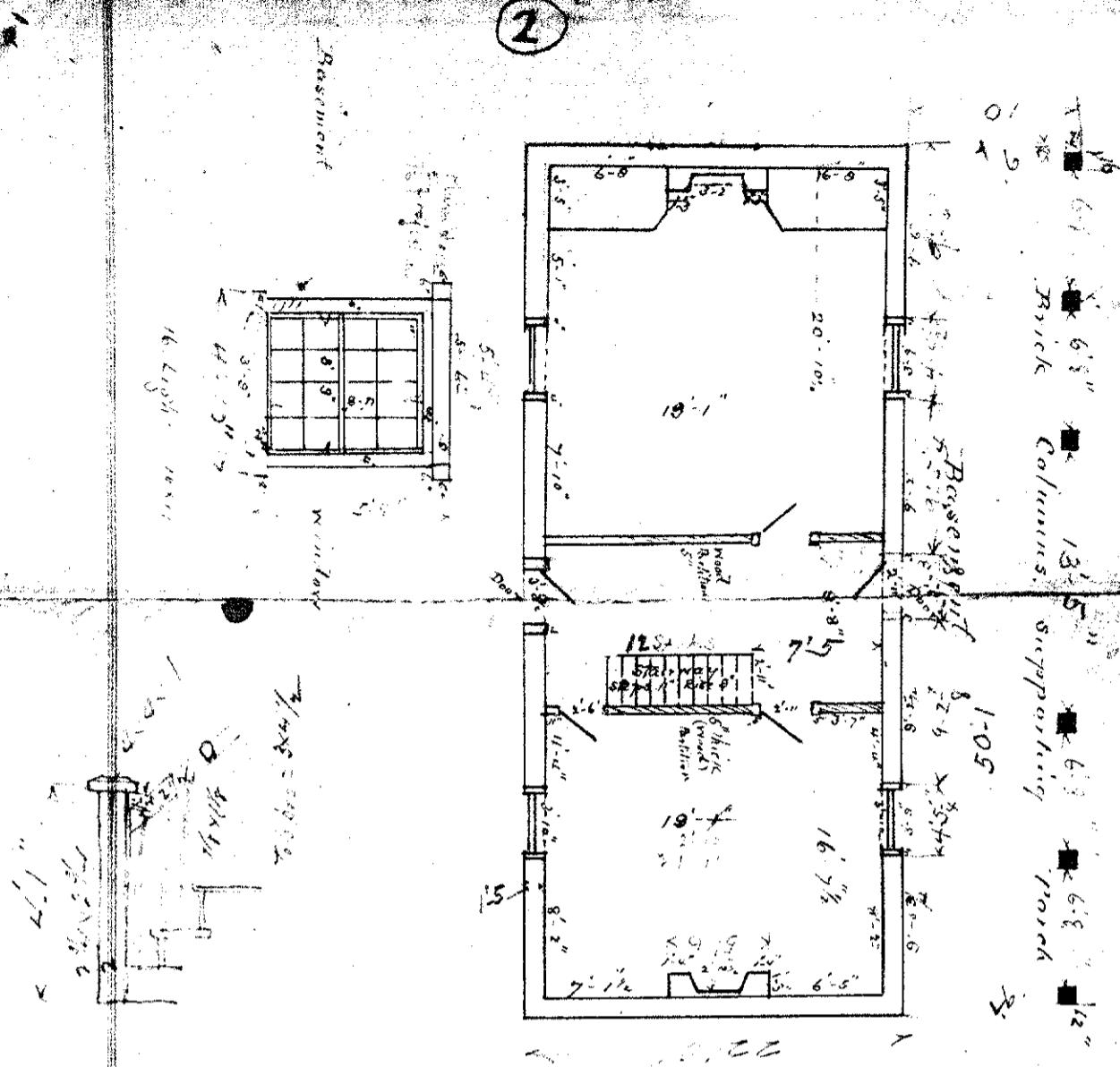
Plain mantels 4'-6" high 6'-4" x 7" tops -

Moped chair boards in back rooms



mantle in Right Room

Brick 143696 3rd Story -  
and wood 12600 } 156290 Roof 17500 approximated



Basement - Story.

~~Front Door Height 6' 0" width 3' 0"~~

Back Door " 6' 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " 2' - 11"

Ceiling " 8'-0". 8'-0' floor height; ceiling height

Height windows from floor 2' 5 $\frac{1}{2}$

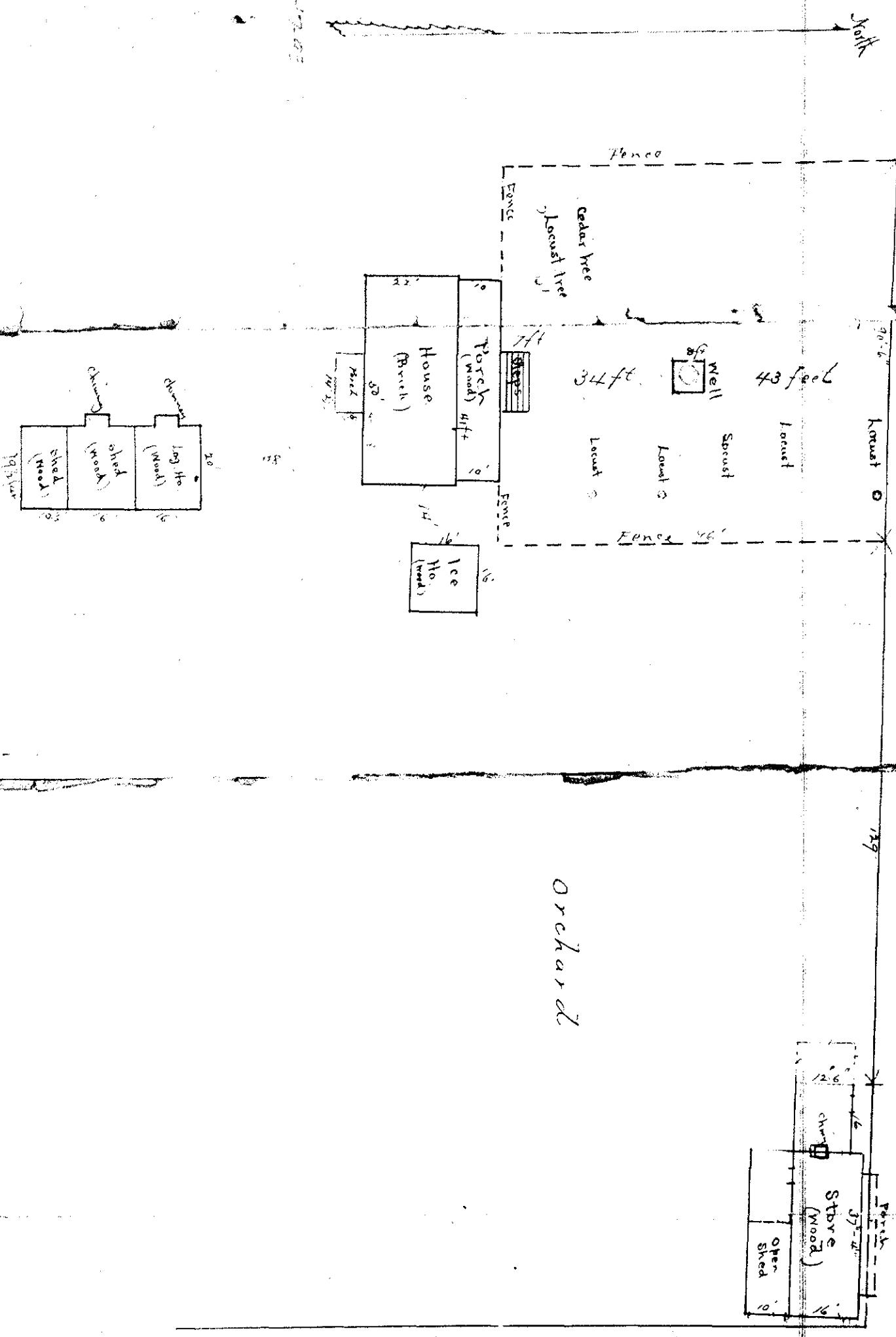
Thickness of wall  $\frac{1}{2}$  in.  $5^{\circ}$  End  $1^{\circ}$

" " " Paritions (wood) 5 "

## 16' Room's Second Story -

Masonry Est at 1946.00 }  
Wood work " 3800 } for Basement \$1984.00.

Main St



Cross St

(H)

Addendum to:  
McClean House  
(Raine-McClean House)  
(Surrender House)  
Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park  
Appomattox  
Appomattox County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-240

HABS  
VA,  
6-APPO,

1-

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127